

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AG
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NEW YORK NY 10003

Mailgram

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WASHINGTON DC 20520

RECEIVED BY J. Smith DATE 9/16/83
MAILGRAM
PAID BY 20520

8/3

I WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE THAT I HAVE SENT THE FOLLOWING MAILGRAM TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE NAME OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ACVAFS.

IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT DEPARTURE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST CITIZENS OF AFGHANISTAN NOW IN THE UNITED STATES WHO FAIL TO RETURN BECAUSE THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF THEIR COUNTRY. IN THE ABSENCE OF NEW INSTRUCTIONS WE HAVE TO PURSUE THE CUMBERSOME AND TIME CONSUMING PROCEDURE OF FORMAL ASYLUM REQUESTS WHICH ENTAILS CONSIDERABLE WORK AT THE INS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND LENGTHY DELAYS BEFORE ADJUDICATION. IN THE MEANTIME THE ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE STRANDED AND ARE UNABLE TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT.

IN A SIMILAR SITUATION A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE WAS DEVISED FOR ETHIOPIANS IN AN INS DIRECTIVE OF JULY 12, 1977 WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO REQUEST VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE IN YEARLY INCREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION TO WORK WITHOUT FILING FORMAL ASYLUM APPLICATIONS. IT SEEMS TO US THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED FOR AFGHAN CITIZENS WHO INDICATE AN INABILITY TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY AT THIS TIME. IT WOULD LIGHTEN THE HEAVY LOAD OF THE IMMIGRATION COURTS AND OTHER IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. IT WOULD ALSO BE A MUCH SIMPLER AND MORE EXPEDITIOUS PROCEDURE, AS IT PROVED TO BE IN THE CASE OF ETHIOPIANS, LEBANESE AND NICARAGUINS

WE HOPE THAT OUR SUGGESTION WILL MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL AND THAT THE NEW INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED BY THE IMMIGRATION NATURALIZATION SERVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WITH OUR THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION

MRS INGRID WALTER CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE
200 PARK AVE SOUTH NEW YORK NY 10003
ON BEHALF OF
AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR NATIONALITIES SERVICE
AMERICAN FUND FOR CZECHOSLOVAC REFUGEES
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE MIAS
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE
MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
POLISH AMERICAN IMMIGRATION AND RELIEF COMMITTEE
TOLSTOY FOUNDATION

WORLD RELIEF
YOUNG MENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

10:47 EST

HGMCOMP MGM